

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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SARS FEARS RAMPANT ACROSS REGION

Women asked to leave job fair, hair salon

BY ROGER VARLEY
Staff Writer

Franca Caschera of Maple says she was asked to leave a salon, her hair still dripping wet, because she had recently finished a quarantine for SARS.

It's just one example of rampant fears over the outbreak of Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

Others include a Richmond Hill woman who was asked to leave a job fair at the York Region headquarters and Markham businesses, which are seeking financial compensation because of business losses due to SARS fears.

Ms. Caschera said she had completed 15 days in quarantine when she visited Statement in Hair April 10.

But salon owner Greg Pallotta said he asked her to leave as a precautionary measure to protect his staff and other clients.

Ms. Caschera said she was admitted to York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill for 2-1/2 days in late March to undergo surgery. The hospital was closed indefinitely March 28 after it was discovered a SARS patient had been transferred there from Scarborough Grace Hospital.

"I was told it was OK to go home (March 27) and be quarantined at home," she said.

Mr. Pallotta said he calculated

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PREDICTED SPIKE IN SARS CASES COULD DELAY RE-OPENING OF DEPARTMENTS

Hospital in holding pattern

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

Markham Stouffville Hospital officials are playing a waiting game this weekend, watching for the dramatic spike in SARS cases being predicted by some public health officials who worry the potentially fatal illness is on the verge of an uncontrolled outbreak.

What happens over the next few

days will determine whether or not the hospital re-opens its outpatient and diagnostic testing facilities Tuesday as hoped, explained hospital president and chief executive officer Dr. Jim MacLean.

"It's still a big if," he said. "There are a lot of potential issues out there. If the disease is under control and we hope it is, then we can look at increasing activities here. If there

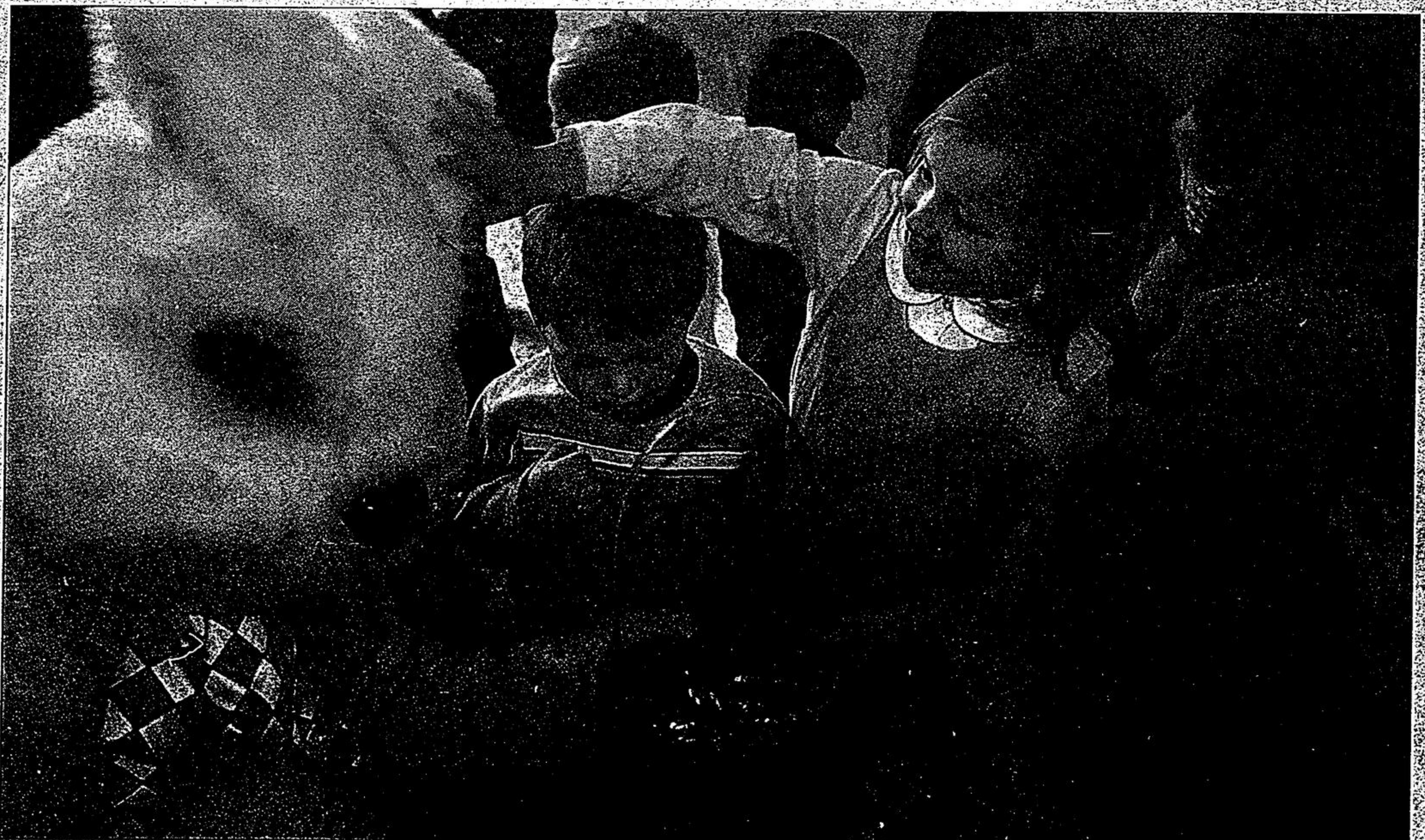
are increases of cases in the community, then we have to prepared to look after sick people, further diminishing our ability to provide normal services."

The province's commissioner of public security, Dr. James Young, this week confirmed the potential for secondary transmission of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome is now "quite high." The warning

came after more than 30 members of a Toronto church were diagnosed with probable or suspected cases of SARS. More than 500 have been forced into quarantine.

"I don't want to alarm people unduly, but at the same time, I want them to understand this is a very critical time," Dr. Young said last week. "We cannot stress enough the

See HOSPITAL, page 7.



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

'EGG-CITING' VISITOR

Brooke Loader, 5, pats the Easter Bunny as Kirk Vogan, 3, and others children in the Totspot play group at the Stouffville United Church are offered chocolates from a basket. There will be plenty of egg hunts this weekend.

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